

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR VE ENRG EEC

SUBJ: SOAMES' VISIT TO VENEZUELA

REF: STATE 236285

1. ACCORDING TO ORGANIZERS OF SOAMES' VISIT AND LOCAL JOURNALISTS, SOAMES SPOKE TO PRESS EXTEMPORANEOUSLY AND NO TRANSCRIPT WAS MADE OF HIS REMARKS, MOST OF WHICH WERE MADE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS. EMBASSY SUMMARY OF HIS REMARKS (CARACAS 10131) WAS A COMPOSITE OF REPORTS APPEARING IN LEADING CARACAS DAILIES.

2. ON THE QUESTION OF EC TARIFF REPRISALS AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES, THESE PAPERS REPORTED ON SOAMES' STATEMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

EL UNIVERSAL - 'I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IT COULD HAPPEN (THAT THE EC COULD ADOPT A GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES WHICH WOULD DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OPEC COUNTRIES). THE EC SYSTEM

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OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES IS AN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM WHICH HAS

BEEN EXTENDED ON THE BASIS OF MOST-FAVORED-NATION TREATMENT TO ALL THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS AND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO CONCEIVE OF ANOTHER APPROACH."

EL NACIONAL - "ASKED IF THE EC SYSTEM OF GENERALIZED PREFERENCES WOULD EVER BE USED AS AN ARM TO BRING PRESSURE IF THE PRICES OF PETROLEUM AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS INCREASED, SOAMES INSISTED THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN AND EXPLAINED THAT THE PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE OF THE SYSTEM IS TO BENEFIT THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND NOT TO BRING PRESSURE UPON THEM."

DAILY JOURNAL (ENGLISH LANGUAGE) "IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, SOAMES ASSERTED THAT THE COMMON MARKET WOULD 'NEVER' CONSIDER APPLYING TARIFF REPRISALS AGAINST OPEC MEM34 -- AS THE US DID--AFTER THE OIL PRODUCERS RAISED CRUDE OIL PRICES IN 1973?."

SHLAUDEMAN UNQTE KISSINGER

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